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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

32042

7590

02/05/2010

PATTON BOGGS LLP  
8484 WESTPARK DRIVE  
SUITE 900  
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

PAULS, JOHN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3686

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,324	02/20/2004	Bently C. Goodwin	026295.0102PTUS	6919

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC REMITTANCE NOTICE ANALYSIS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$0	\$0	\$755	05/05/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
**or Fax** **(571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

32042 7590 02/05/2010  
**PATTON BOGGS LLP**  
**8484 WESTPARK DRIVE**  
**SUITE 900**  
**MCLEAN, VA 22102**

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/783,324 02/20/2004

Bently C. Goodwin

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**TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC REMITTANCE NOTICE ANALYSIS**

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$0	\$0	\$755	05/05/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PAULS, JOHN A	3686	705-004000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/783,324	02/20/2004	Bently C. Goodwin	026295.0102P/TUS	6919
32042	7590	02/05/2010	EXAMINER	
PATTON BOGGS LLP 8484 WESTPARK DRIVE SUITE 900 MCLEAN, VA 22102			PAULS, JOHN A.	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3686	

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2010

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1391 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1391 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/783,324

**Examiner**

JOHN A. PAULS

**Applicant(s)**

GOODWIN, BENTLY C.

**Art Unit**

3686

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/12/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 9-14, 19-25, 27, 28 and 31 - 35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/JOHN A. PAULS/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3686

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Prosecution History***

1. Claims 1, 9, 19, 21, 27, 33 and 34 have been amended.
2. Claims 1 – 6, 9—14, 19 – 25, 27, 28 and 31 - 35 are allowed.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

3. The following as an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding Claim 1

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a system for electronic remittance notice analysis, said system comprising:

- a database component operable to maintain electronic remittance notice information for a plurality of healthcare providers,
- the electronic remittance notice information includes claim adjudication information for a plurality of claims for each of the plurality of healthcare providers and for a plurality of procedures,
- the claim adjudication information includes information for each of the plurality of claims that includes healthcare provider identifier information, date information, procedure information, denial/allowance information, and financial information; and
- a processor component operable to access the database component and determine, for a period of time and for a plurality of claims,
- an average denial rate for each of the plurality of procedures for one of the plurality of healthcare providers,

- an average aggregate denial rate for each of the plurality of procedures for the plurality of healthcare providers,
- a weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the financial information,
- the processor further operable to determine a weighted average denial rate for the period of time for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers, and
- a weighted average aggregate denial rate for the period of time for the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers,
- the processor component is further operable to compare the weighted average denial rate and the weighted average aggregate denial rate, and
- the processor component is further operable to determine a percentage difference between the weighted average denial rate and the weighted average aggregate denial rate to generate a denial rate equalizer.

Regarding Claim 21

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a system for electronic remittance notice analysis, said system comprising:

- a database component operable to maintain electronic remittance notice information for a plurality of healthcare providers,

- the electronic remittance notice information includes claim adjudication information for a plurality of claims for each of the plurality of healthcare providers and for a plurality of procedures,
- the claim adjudication information includes information for each of the plurality of claims that includes healthcare provider identifier information, date information, procedure information, denial/allowance information, and payment information; and
- a processor component operable to access the database component and determine, for a period of time and for a plurality of claims,
- an average days sales outstanding for each of the plurality of procedures for one of the plurality of healthcare providers,
- an average aggregate days sales outstanding for each of the plurality of procedures for the plurality of healthcare providers,
- a weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the payment information,
- the processor is further operable to determine a weighted average days sales outstanding for the period of time for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers, and
- a weighted average aggregate days sales outstanding for the period of time for the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers, and

- the processor component is further operable to determine a percentage difference between the weighted average days sales outstanding and the weighted average aggregate days sales outstanding to generate a days sales outstanding equalizer.

Regarding Claim 27

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches a method for electronic remittance notice analysis, said method comprising:

- receiving electronic remittance notice information from a third party payer in a computer database,
- the electronic remittance notice information includes claim adjudication information for a plurality of claims for each of a plurality of healthcare providers and for a plurality of procedures,
- the claim adjudication information includes healthcare provider identifier information, date information, procedure information, denial/allowance information, and financial information;
- determining, for a period of time and for the plurality of claims for each of the plurality of procedures, an average denial rate for each of the plurality of procedures for one of the plurality of healthcare providers;
- determining, for the period of time and based upon at least part of the plurality of claims, an average aggregate denial rate for each of the plurality of procedures for the plurality of healthcare providers;



- determining a weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the financial information;
- determining a weighted average denial rate for the period of time for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers; and
- determining a weighted average aggregate denial rate for the period of time for the plurality of healthcare providers based on the weighting factor for each of the plurality of procedures for the one of the plurality of healthcare providers;
- comparing the weighted average denial rate and the weighted average aggregate denial rate;
- determining a percentage difference between the weighted average denial rate and the weighted average aggregate denial rate to generate a denial rate equalizer; and
- outputting reports of custom benchmark information generated by the method.

4. The most remarkable prior art of record is as follows:

- Tartar et al: U.S. Patent Number 5,550,734 A
- Boyer et al: U.S. Patent Number 6,208,973 B1

5. The cited prior art of record fails to expressly teach a method and system for analyzing the electronic remittance notices of a medical practice, where the system and method determine and average denial rate, an aggregate average denial rate and a weighted average for the denial rates and an average days sales outstanding, an aggregate average days sales outstanding and a weighted average for the days sales outstanding and allows a medical practice to compare their financial performance to other medical practices.
6. Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **John A. Pauls** whose telephone number is **(571) 270-5557**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **JERRY O'CONNOR** can be reached at **571.272.6787**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be

obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to (571) 273-8300.

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window:**

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

/J. A. P./

Examiner, Art Unit 3686

Date: 4 January, 2010

/Gerald J. O'Connor/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 3686